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SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR EUR/WE (MENNUTI), EUR/PA/PD (PICKREL), EUR/RHA  
(BELL), EUR/AGS, DRL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [GM](#) [VT](#)

SUBJECT: VATICAN ARCHIVES: ARCHIVIST CONFIRMS PARTIAL  
OPENING FOR NAZI GERMANY AND WWII DOCUMENTS

REF: VATICAN 0819

[1](#)1. CHIEF VATICAN ARCHIVIST CARDINAL JORGE MEIJA CONFIRMED  
OCTOBER 29 THE VATICAN'S ACCELERATED TIMETABLE FOR THE  
RELEASE OF MATERIAL RELATING TO WORLD WAR II AND THE  
PONTIFICATE OF PIUS XII, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY POST  
(REFTEL). MATERIAL PERTAINING TO VATICAN ASSISTANCE TO  
PRISONERS OF WAR WILL BE RELEASED IN JANUARY 2003. THIS  
UNCLASSIFIED

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RELEASE WILL ENCOMPASS 3.5 MILLION FILES AND LETTERS ON SIX  
CD-ROMS. MATERIAL ON THE PRE-WAR ACTIVITIES OF POPE PIUS  
XII IN GERMANY WHEN HE SERVED AS APOSTOLIC NUNCIO IN BERLIN  
WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY 2005. THE VATICAN ALSO  
ANNOUNCED IT HAD INCREASED ITS PERSONNEL WORKING TO  
CATALOGUE DOCUMENTS.

[1](#)2. COMMENT: THE VATICAN'S CONFIRMATION OF THE ACCELERATED  
DOCUMENT TIMETABLE IS A WELCOME SIGN AND INDICATES  
COGNIZANCE OF INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR WORLD WAR II ARCHIVE  
MATERIAL TO BE RELEASED AS A MATTER OF JUSTICE. THIS  
TIMETABLE ALSO REFLECTS THE HOLY SEE'S DESIRE TO BEGIN  
PUTTING THE CONTROVERSY OVER PIUS XII AND HIS ROLE BEHIND  
THEM.

NICHOLSON

UNCLASSIFIED

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